

Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup

MINUTES

November 23rd, 2015

Attendance/Roll Call:

Present
Kevin Bloom
Frank Durantaye
Raj Kudchadkar
Ken McNaughton
Ryan Miller
Dave Myers
Ron Peters
Bruno Reich
Debbie Slack Katz
Gary Smith
Not present
Jim Caldwell
Mark DeLuca
Bob Frances
Lori Lilly
Jason McMillan

Approval of Minutes –

November 16th meeting minutes were approved.

Calendar Review –

Proposal to cancel December 14th and hold next meeting for January 11, 2016. New 2016 meeting schedule to be approved at January meeting. Target is 2nd Monday of each month.

Finalizing Draft Report –

During the time between the last meeting and this meeting, Workgroup members worked on the content of separate sections of the report. Individual Workgroup members shared content with Raj for individual sections they were assigned to edit since the last meeting. Raj compiled a rough draft report from that input and provided copies for the entire Workgroup's comments. The Workgroup walked through this initial draft section-by-section.

Cover:

- Ken proposed the "Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup – Flood Mitigation Report" be changed to the "Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup – Report."

Introduction:

- Ryan noted that all the hurricanes and storms listed, except Lee, are connected to the Patapsco. It was agreed that hurricanes and storms would not be listed.
- Debbie said not to strike Debra Korb (who recently resigned) from the list of contributors since she did help with the report.
- The introduction listed all the executive departments/offices that supported the Workgroup. Gary pointed out that the County Council should also be listed.

Workplan:

- Under deliverables, Ken noted that we failed to include future efforts to help reduce FEMA insurance rates.
- Workgroup did not form subgroups. As a result, Debbie asked that subgroup references be taken out.
- Raj included information on last two Workgroup meetings in the report:
 - November 16, 2015
 - Workgroup members worked on the content of each section of the report. The workgroup then reviewed all the sections as a whole, refined the content, and concluded the meeting with a preliminary draft of the report.
 - November 23, 2015
 - The Workgroup finalized the flood mitigation report.

Structural:

- Bruno introduced all new language:
 1. Continue funding Phase I and fund Phase II mitigation projects.
 2. Repair existing stormwater system including:
 - a. Channel walls
 - b. Structures supporting buildings spanning the channels
 3. Increase capacity of the existing stormwater system including:
 - a. Increase number and/or size of underground stormwater pipes
 - b. Create spillways
 - c. Create underground storage such as below Parking Lots F and D
 - d. Increase size of existing stormwater management ponds and add new ponds
 4. Implement flood proofing projects on private property
 5. Create new funding/implementation models including:
 - a. A technical assistance program on the local level modeled after FEMA
 - b. State and federal grants
 - c. Tax incentives
 - d. Cooperative programs
 6. Create projects that combine increased stormwater capacity and urban design such as:
 - a. Widen and deepen beds and develop recreation areas
 - b. Create step ponds
 - c. Partner with Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) on flood mitigation projects in its corridor.
 - d. Creation of a park/city attraction that doubles as stormwater storage
 - e. Creation of a rock quarry that doubles as a stormwater storage

7. Create an access point in the lower downtown watershed for maintenance, monitoring and post storm surveys.

Maintenance/Monitoring:

- Ron emphasized that “The purpose of this section is to emphasize the importance of channel maintenance and monitoring in flood control. The following recommendations should be considered for future mitigation efforts.” This will be the new instruction for this section of the report.
- Ron emailed an update of this section, which the group worked on reconciling with the previous language.

Programmatic Capacity:

- The Workgroup agreed to spell-out READY. Otherwise, little change was offered for this section. All the proposed updates were grammatical edits and not substantive changes.

Other:

- After considerable discussion, the Workgroup agreed with Frank to add the following language: “The County should make clear how its funds are divided between managing the *quantity* of stormwater and the *quality* of stormwater that enters the Patapsco River.”
- Frank initiated a discussion on moratorium on development in the watershed, but the Workgroup did not agree to that proposal. But the Workgroup did add: “While on-site flood plain controls are currently in effect for development in the watershed, in-lieu fees for offsite improvements should also be considered.”